

International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES)
2008 Annual Science Meeting
Opening Ceremonies

Remarks
for
Hon. Angus MacIsaac
Deputy Premier

12:30 p.m.
Monday, September 22, 2008
WTCC
Halifax, NS

Governor General Michelle Jean, Dr. (Joe) Horwood, Dr. (Gerd) Hubold, conference organizers and participants, Cead Mile Failte – A hundred thousand welcomes!

It is my honour to bring greetings from Premier Rodney MacDonald and my colleagues in government.

I want to welcome you to Nova Scotia.

We are pleased you have selected our beautiful province for this year's International Council for the Exploration of the Seas annual science conference.

Nova Scotia enjoys one of the largest concentrations of marine scientists in the world and is a regional center for marine and aquatic research.

It's here that prestigious organizations and facilities such as the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, the National Research Council – Institute for Marine biosciences, Nova Scotia Agricultural College and Dalhousie University focus on issues related to marine fisheries, oceanography, and the marine environment.

While I can see from your program that you have a full week of interesting presentations, discussions and speakers, I hope you can also make the

opportunity to experience the rich hospitality and beauty of our province.

I am certain you will find the city has a lot to offer no matter what your interests might be.

As a coastal province where you are never much more than a 30 minute drive to the ocean, the sea is especially important to us.

With more than 7500 kilometers of coastline, many of our rural communities have a strong sense of connection to the ocean. In fact, at one time the promotional slogan on the Nova Scotia's license plate boasted our title of "Canada's Ocean Playground."

Times are changing and with this change comes a new perspective on our seas and oceans.

Our ocean and coast support a wide array of human activities that are of great value and significance.

The travel and tourism industry is one of the fastest growing sectors of the global economy, especially with regard to coastal and marine areas.

The diverse activities undertaken in oceans and on coasts are placing increasing pressure on the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems, whose resources are being stretched to their limits.

In Nova Scotia, fisheries and aquaculture are important economically and socially, providing livelihoods directly and indirectly for many people.

The ocean environment is very complex, as well as a difficult and increasingly expensive phenomenon to study.

For some time, marine research was seen as a series of distinct fields of study.

Now, it is evident through the work ICES is undertaking that our emphasis is on the sustainable use, protection, and changes of the marine ecosystem in a changing world.

Cooperation among scientists, researchers and policy-makers is essential to understanding and managing this precious resource.

ICES realizes that the world is changing fast and we need to work collaboratively for prosperous future.

We must strike the balance between science and culture, between natural pattern and cultural heritage, and between social and economic development and environmental protection that will place us at the heart of current efforts to ensure the sustainable use of our oceans and coasts.

This is the model and the system that we must build for future generations.

Science provides the foundation for this new model, and you are the world leaders who are addressing the many important research questions related to oceans and marine resources.

You are building the foundation.

Your work is critical for Nova Scotia, for Canada and for all Maritime jurisdictions in the world.

I wish you all the best in the week ahead.